

**Office of the Premier**

**2015/16 – 2017/18  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2015**



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## Premier Accountability Statement



The *Office of the Premier 2015/16 – 2017/18 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction, in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared and for achieving the specific objectives in this plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier  
February 4, 2015

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## Purpose of the Office of the Premier

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Premier is regularly advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary on the range of activities undertaken to facilitate cross-agency coordination of policy advice and implementation. These activities include: regular meetings of deputy ministers to share information about policy directions; meetings with crown agency executives; and interdepartmental coordination of a wide range of policy priorities.

The Office assists the Premier in overseeing and leading the government as a whole. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office of the Premier has a clear role to play in promoting effective policy coordination across the public service. It instills trust in the quality of the advice and support for Cabinet on the proper conduct of government business within accepted conventions and practices.

There continues to be growing emphasis on enhanced coordination across a range of government departments. The use of effective planning supports improved efficiencies through joint inter-agency cooperation.

### The Office:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation;
- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, leads implementation of the corporate human resource plan for the B.C. Public Service, *Being the Best* and *Citizens @ the Centre: B.C. Government 2.0*;
- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and
- Works directly with the federal government and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with the federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

## Strategic Direction and Context

Led by the Office of the Premier, this government's strategic objective is to grow BC's economy – creating opportunities for communities across the province, and ensuring a bright future for generations to come.

Steadfastly committed to protecting taxpayers and ensuring the sustainability of quality public services, this government will continue to control spending and ensure a balanced budget. This government will continue to ensure that programs and services operate with minimum waste and maximum impact – supported by the efforts of dedicated public servants across BC. Our commitment to cost consciousness and accountability is also reflected in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles for all public entities.

Recognizing that new jobs should be created by the private sector, this government will build on the success of the BC Jobs Plan – strengthening our trade relationships with key markets in the Asia-Pacific and around the world, and working to support success in key sectors of our economy.

This government will continue to implement the Skills for Jobs Blueprint, to ensure that British Columbians are trained, ready, and first in line for new jobs, in LNG and throughout a growing economy.

Recognizing that British Columbia works best when we work together, the Office of the Premier will spearhead the continued development of stronger relationships with business, labour, First Nations, and other levels of government.

Only by growing the economy can government continue to invest in the public services and infrastructure on which British Columbians depend. The Office of the Premier will continue to work with Ministers and their staff to ensure the achievement of the objectives in their mandate letters.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

## Goal 1: Government's priorities are implemented

### Objective 1.1: Ministries and Crown Agency activities are integrated and aligned with government's priorities

#### Strategies

- Lead and support the Executive Council in the successful development and implementation of the Government Strategic Plan.
- Clearly articulate priorities of government in the Strategic Plan and assist all ministries to develop strategies to achieve the goals and priorities established in the Strategic Plan.
- Administer government's accountability framework by supporting ministries and Crown agencies in developing service plans and annual service plan reports to ensure they advance Government's Strategic Plan.
- Guide the successful delivery of ministry and Crown agency mandates by providing direction and resolving issues requiring senior government input.
- Address priority issues on behalf of Executive Council and manage issues that arise in the delivery of programs and services.

### Performance Measure 1: Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2015/16 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: BC Public Service Agency

#### Discussion

Within government's accountability framework there are strategies in place for all government staff, from front line workers to Deputy Ministers. The Office of the Premier is administratively responsible for the performance targets that are in place with Deputy Ministers.

There are multiple interlinking layers to government's accountability framework. The Government Strategic Plan sets out the overall priorities and goals that illustrate the Province's vision for the future. Ministry service plans have goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures with targets to accomplish those goals for the upcoming three-year period. These plans are tabled in the legislature with the budget in February of each year. In June, government, ministries and Crown agencies report on their achievements of the previous fiscal year in their service plan annual report.

## **Goal 2: The public service is well positioned to deliver government programs for British Columbians**

### **Objective 2.1: BC Public Service Corporate Human Resource Plan *Being the Best* goals are realized**

#### **Strategies**

- Continue to develop *Being the Best*, the Corporate Human Resource Plan for the BC Public Service.
- Build new strategies and update *Being the Best* annually based on feedback and results.

### **Performance Measure 2: BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer**

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Data Source: Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government

#### **Discussion**

In 2006, the Corporate Human Resource Plan, *Being the Best*, was developed by the Deputy Ministers' Council, led by the Deputy Minister to the Premier. The Council is committed to achieving the status of the BC Government as a top employer through annual updates to and continued implementation of the plan with the involvement of the BC Public Service. The BC Public Service has been recognized as one of:

- BC's Top Employers for every year since 2008
- Canada's Top 100 Employers for every year since 2010
- Canada's Top Family Friendly Employers for 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015
- Canada's Greenest Employers for every year since 2009
- Top Employers for Canadians over 40 for 2014

### **Goal 3: Cabinet and Cabinet Committees are able to make timely and well-informed decisions**

#### **Objective 3.1: Cabinet and its Committees are supported with timely and effective advice**

##### **Strategies**

- Support Cabinet and its Committees by ensuring timeliness, and appropriate advice on key policy, program and legislative initiatives, which align with government priorities, including an ability to measure the success of the initiatives.
- Effectively provide necessary and appropriate logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Continue to use technologies and tools to improve efficiencies in the logistical support of Cabinet and its Committees.

#### **Performance Measure 3: Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans**

Performance Measure	2006/07 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Cabinet Operations

##### **Discussion**

All major policies, programs and initiatives are reviewed by Cabinet or a Cabinet committee to ensure alignment with government strategic priorities. There are currently eight Cabinet committees and Cabinet working groups, each making recommendations to Cabinet on specific programs and initiatives within their respective mandates. For example, the Environment and Land Use Committee reviews issues affecting the province's land base and ensures that both economic and environmental considerations are balanced.

Cabinet committees and ministries provide prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefitting British Columbians.

## Goal 4: Government is successful in achieving its intergovernmental relations objectives

**Objective 4.1: British Columbia's priorities are advanced through leadership in intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral partnerships and international relations**

### Strategies

- Engage the federal government in achieving BC priorities.
- Strengthen partnerships with other provinces through bilateral and multilateral co-operation on shared priorities discussed at the Council of the Federation, New West Partnership and other Premiers' meetings.
- Positively influence the policies and programs of other governments that affect the interests of British Columbia through enhanced economic, cultural and diplomatic ties and programs.
- Establish regional leadership, shared economic and environmental priorities, such as action on jobs and border management, through joint Cabinet meetings with the State of Washington, the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and British Columbia's participation in the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER).

### Performance Measure 4: Progress on Intergovernmental Relations key issues

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2015/16 Forecast	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Progress on key issues in Intergovernmental Relations Plan	Progress on key issues	Progress achieved on key issues	Progress on key issues	Progress on key issues	Progress on key issues

Data Source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

### Discussion

Each year, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat updates its plan with key objectives and major projects, which typically take more than one fiscal year to measure progress. For 2014/15 progress was made on all new initiatives.

The key objectives identified in the intergovernmental plan for 2015/16 are:

- Increase government-to-government engagement at senior levels in order to advance British Columbia's interests with the federal government, within the Canadian federation and with the United States and other priority countries, including sustained relationships with members of the Consular corps as over 80 countries are represented in BC.

- Engage and participate in initiatives with provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation, New West Partnership, Western Premiers' Conferences and other intergovernmental forums.
- Advance bilateral collaboration, focusing on jobs and economic growth, with the State of Washington and other neighbouring states and provinces through joint leaders, cabinet and/or senior officials' meetings and initiatives.
- Engage with other governments and private sector members of PNWER to promote actions in support of keeping the Canada-US border open for legitimate trade and tourism and building regional consensus on actions that increase economic opportunities for BC families in areas such as clean energy.
- Leverage the shared goals and objectives of the Pacific Coast Collaborative set out in British Columbia's agreements with the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska including the implementation of the regional jobs strategy and the action plan on climate and clean energy.
- Work across government, with BC stakeholders, with the federal government, and US federal and state agencies to facilitate the management of transboundary environmental and resource management concerns consistent with the Province's high environmental standards.
- Advance the Province's priorities by engaging with foreign governments, the Consular Corps in British Columbia, Diplomatic Corps in Ottawa, and Canadian representatives posted abroad.
- Provide protocol and ceremonial advice to BC government stakeholders and the general public.
- Promote Pacific Gateway transportation investments and policy changes so that Canada benefits from Asia-Pacific market opportunities.
- Support citizen engagement through the Order of British Columbia, Congratulatory Messages Program, and Ceremonies.
- Implement the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French Language Services.

# Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2014/15 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2015/16 Estimates <sup>2</sup>	2016/17 Plan	2017/18 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	2,456	2,463	2,470	2,477
Executive and Support Services.....	6,552	6,565	6,578	6,591
Office of the Premier.....	3,031	3,041	3,051	3,061
Executive Operations.....	3,521	3,524	3,527	3,530
<b>Total</b> .....	9,008	9,028	9,048	9,068
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	0	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services.....	1	1	1	1
Office of the Premier.....	0	0	0	0
Executive Operations.....	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b> .....	1	1	1	1

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2014/15 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2015/16 Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> 3-year allocations for Economic Stability Mandate (which include both wages and benefits) beginning in 2015/16 for negotiated increases.

Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Premier's Office Contact Information**

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#### **Cabinet Operations**

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#### **Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat**

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### **Appendix B: Hyperlink to Additional Information**

Office of the Premier: [www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/office-of-the-premier/](http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/office-of-the-premier/)

